

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the present patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. This Preliminary Amendment is being filed with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE).

In this Amendment claims 45-46 are added, claims 2 and 12 are canceled and claims 1 and 11 are amended. As a result, claims 1, 3-11, 13-46 are now pending in the application. Support for the amendments is found in various portions of the specification, for example, pages 6-7 and Figures 2-3, as well as other portions of the disclosure.

In the Office Action of November 17, 2005, claims 1-14, 17-26 and 29-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of U.S. Patent 5,550,576 (Klosterman) in view of U.S. Patent 5,883,621 (Iwamura). Claims 15-16 and 27-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of the Klosterman patent and further in view of the Iwamura patent and yet further in view of U.S. Patent 5,438,372 (Tsumori).

The arguments of the previous responses are hereby incorporated by reference into this paper. Further, it is respectfully submitted that the Klosterman patent, the Iwamura patent and the Tsumori patent, either taken singly or as a hypothetical combination, do not teach or suggest the features of the claimed invention in accordance with the pending claims, as amended. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

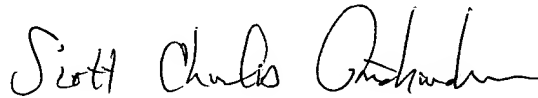
Reply to final Office Action dated November 17, 2005*Deposit Account Authorization / Provisional Time Extension Petition*

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 50-0439 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. However, in the event there are any unresolved issues, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact applicant's representative, Scott Richardson, by telephone at (703)739-0573 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: March 17, 2006